



# Illinois Early Learning Council

December 6, 2021



# Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Build Back Better Status Update & Level Set
3. ELC Structure Review & Discussion
4. Update: Consultation for the ELC
5. Regional & Community Systems
6. Public Comments & Announcements
7. Closing Comments & Adjourn

# **Build Back Better Status Update & Level Set**

Phyllis Glink & Martin Torres

# **ELC Structure Review & Discussion**

Dr. Jamilah R. Jor'dan

# ELC Structure (Draft)

December 2021



Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development

# Visualization of **PROPOSED** ELC Committee Structure



# Program Quality & Improvement



# CQI Nature of Committee Work



Committees are encouraged to collaborate on issues in a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)-like cycle prior to bringing recommendations to the Executive Committee for a vote.

This collaboration will be supported by the committee staffing/facilitation by members of the GOECD Team.



# Cross-cutting Prioritization & Committee Charges

# **ALL ELC Committee Workplans Will Prioritize**

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), with a particular focus on Racial Equity
- Family & beneficiary voice
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- ELC Priority Populations, with a particular focus on English Language Learners, Children with Special Needs, and Diverse Learners (abilities)
- Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
- Raising Illinois (PN3)
- Learning Renewal Efforts
- Title V
- P.A. 101-0654 (Education & Workforce)
- P.A. 102-0004 (Health & Human Services)
- Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic

# Prioritization

- Annually, and at other times as needed, the Executive Committee will establish, revise, and affirm new priorities based on federal mandates, goals of the Administration & issues emerging in the field
- Annually, and at other times as needed, every ELC Committee will establish, revise, and affirm new priorities and develop workplans
  - Committee priorities & workplans must be approved by the Executive Committee
  - Committee priorities must align with the guiding priorities established for/by the Executive Committee



# Approval of Recommendations

- The work of the Council, Committees, and Executive Committee is bidirectional
- Committees bring reports and recommendations to the Executive Committee for a vote
- Recommendations approved by the Executive Committee are considered official ELC recommendations and are shared with:
  - Governing agencies that oversee early childhood for consideration in policymaking
  - The full ELC, who in turn disseminates the information with their respective communities and networks
  - Posted on the [GOECD website](#) for access by members of the public

# A Closer Look: Strategic Focus Areas

# Executive Committee

Co-chairs: Phyllis Glink & Martin Torres

Facilitator: Maggie Koller (GOECD)

Key initiatives may include:

- Holding the Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) system vision
- Statewide Needs Assessment
- Statewide Strategic Plan
- Proposed federal agency plans (BBB)
- Early Childhood Transformation Team (ECTT) efforts
- Collaboration with other early childhood advisory bodies
- School readiness
- K-12 alignment
- Coordination across federal funding





# Integration & Alignment Committee

Category: Program Quality & Improvement

Co-chairs: TBD Appointed ELC Members  
Facilitator: Lori Orr (GOECD)

Key initiatives may include:

- State systems building and alignment (BBB)
- Coordination/alignment of funding streams (BBB)
- Cost estimation modeling/analysis (BBB)
- Integration of IDEA (Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education) with other early childhood programs/funding streams (BBB)
- Accounting for needs of English Language Learners in funding design (BBB)
- Equitable funding approaches to support programs as they increase quality (BBB)



# Research, Evaluation & Data Committee

Category: Program Quality & Improvement

Co-Chairs: TBD Appointed ELC Members

Co-facilitators: Jamilah R. Jor'dan & Nicole J. Craft (GOECD)

Key initiatives may include:

- Assess statewide data initiatives & capacity
- Equity in data collection & reporting across systems
- Early Learning Council Research Agenda
- Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) 2.0, including the Child Care Participation Dataset
- Data requirements in P.A. 101-0654
- Learning Renewal data & evaluation
- Suspension & expulsion data
- Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)



# Quality & Workforce Committee

Category: Program Quality & Improvement



Co-chairs: TBD Appointed ELC Members

Co-facilitators: Tom Layman, Anita Rumage, Hannah Rivera & Zach Allen (GOECD)

Key initiatives may include:

- Statewide quality & workforce initiatives (BBB)
- Coordinated system of standards & PD across funding streams
- ExceleRate Illinois (BBB)
- Early Intervention
- Early Childhood Special Education (BBB)
- English Language Learners (BBB)
- Learning standards & guidelines (BBB)
- Licensure, endorsement & credentials
- Workforce compensation initiatives (BBB)
- Recruitment & retention (BBB)
- Higher education
- Gateways Registry
- H.B. 2878: Higher Education Consortium
- Child care licensing (BBB)
- Facilities (BBB)
- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)
- Competency-Based Education (CBE)
- Focus on entire ECEC Workforce: Home Visitors, I/ECMH Consultants, Early Interventionists, Directors, Instructional Staff (Teachers & Teacher Assistants)

# Family Advisory Committee

Category: Equitable Access & Enrollment

Co-chairs: Dena Chapman & Stacey Leatherman

Facilitator: Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton

Key initiatives may include:

- Family engagement strategies, including voice in policymaking (BBB)
- Family experiences around enrollment into ECEC programs (BBB)
- Barriers and solutions to inclusion (BBB)
- Feedback on other ELC Committee initiatives





# Community Equity & Access Committee

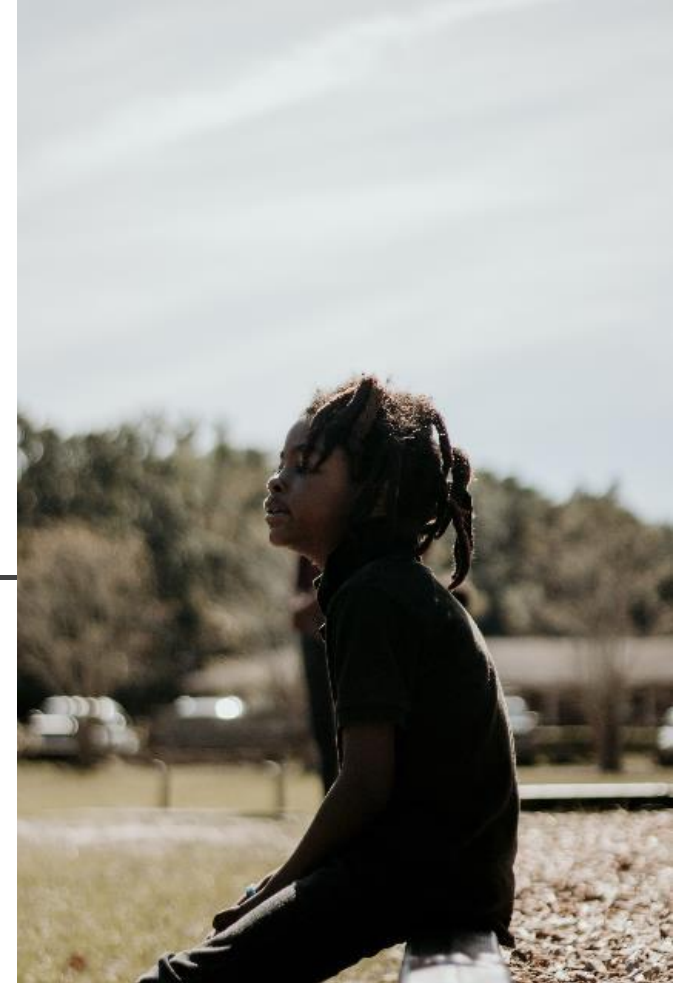
Category: Equitable Access & Enrollment

Co-chairs: TBD Appointed ELC Members

Facilitator: Deborah Hwang (GOECD)

Key initiatives may include:

- Early Childhood Councils
- Increasing equitable access to high-quality ECEC programs—statewide priorities for expansion (BBB)
- ECEC program enrollment across communities (BBB)
- Kindergarten transition (BBB)
- Integrated Referral & Intake System (IRIS)
- S.B. 1024: Access to ECEC by DCFS-involved families
- Family First Prevention Services Act



# Health & Home Visiting Committee

Category: Equitable Access & Enrollment

Co-chairs: TBD Appointed ELC Members

Co-facilitators: Jean Davis & Deborah Hwang (GOECD)

Key initiatives may include:

- Supporting & promoting children's health & well-being
- Children with special health care needs
- Mental health
- Social determinants of health
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Expanding & aligning core intensive home visiting practices
- Universal newborn supports
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant
- Maternal health
- Raising Illinois (PN3)







# **Update: Consultation for the ELC**

Dr. Tonya Bibbs & Christy Cashman

# Responding to the Needs of Illinois' Young Children and Families: Considerations and Recommendations Regarding the Illinois Early Learning Council

Christy Cashman, M.S., LSW

Tutor- Academic Success  
Center  
Research Assistant

Tonya Bibbs, PhD, LCSW

Associate Professor  
Erikson Institute



# What We Have Done



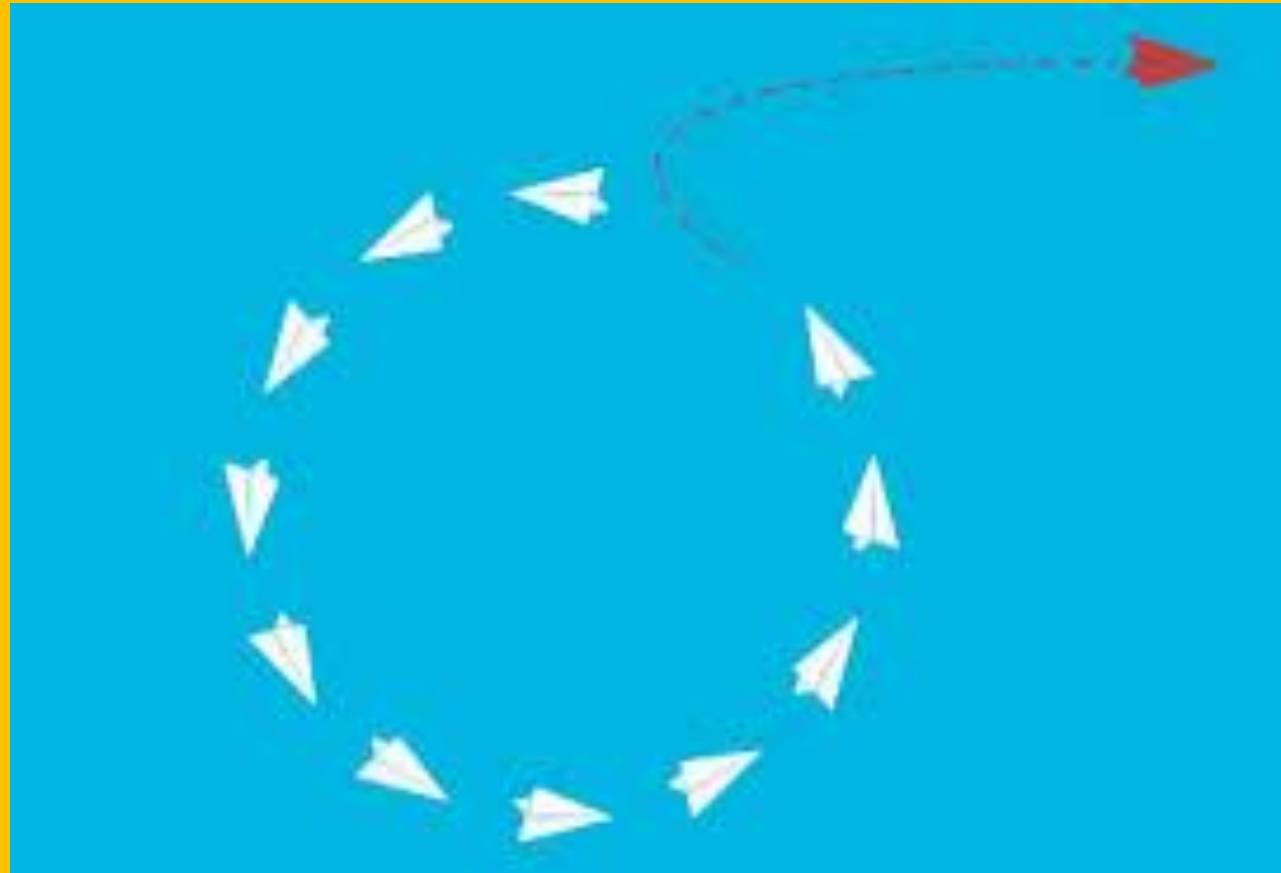
Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development



# Our Current and Immediate Next Steps



# What You Can Expect





Contact Us  
for Additional Information

[tbibbs@erikson.edu](mailto:tbibbs@erikson.edu)  
[ccashman@erikson.edu](mailto:ccashman@erikson.edu)

# Regional & Community Systems

Cicely Fleming

A group of five diverse children, including three girls and two boys, are smiling and looking up at the camera. They are arranged in a circle, with their heads tilted back. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white pattern. The text "Centering Family Voice to Transform Early Learning In IL" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# Centering Family Voice to Transform Early Learning In IL

## Our First Priority:

Build capacity across the state to ensure existing and potential new services meet local needs

- Engage the full suite of resources in the region to support expanding access
- *Initial Focus:* Affordable, accessible ECEC for children prenatal through kindergarten that meets the needs of families, especially those in priority populations
- *Eventually encompassing:* Health services (prenatal, perinatal, pediatric), mental health services, basic needs (housing, food insecurity, etc.), etc.
- *Build Sustainability:* By engaging regional leaders from all sectors of communities, leverage public and private resources to support the regional council infrastructure to ensure adequate, equitable funding for children 0-5 in the region.

# Regional & Community Systems State Office



Sonja Clark, She/Her  
Director of Operations



Cicely Fleming, She/Her  
State Director



Jes Scheinpflug, They/Them  
Project Coordinator



# Update on Regional & Community Systems

**Staffing:**  
State Director  
Director of Operations  
Project Coordinator  
5 Area Coordinators

Name change: We are moving from Regional Councils to Early Childhood Councils.  
A better description of the councils work (will still share geographic boundaries of ROE's)

Statewide virtual Early Childhood Planning Councils kick-off in early Feb with a week of public 'townhalls' by region including Closed Captioning and Spanish language.

Convened focus groups (Communications, Racial Equity, Local Collab Funding) made up of ELC Community Systems Subcommittee members.  
Gathered input will be incorporated into our work.

Contracted IAFC/CS3 team to provide Technical Assistance & Training for Planning Council Staff.  
They have also been supporting the Council Kick-Off Week Planning.

To ensure full state coverage, we contracted 6 Area Coordinators to increase our "boots on the ground" work and develop relationships.

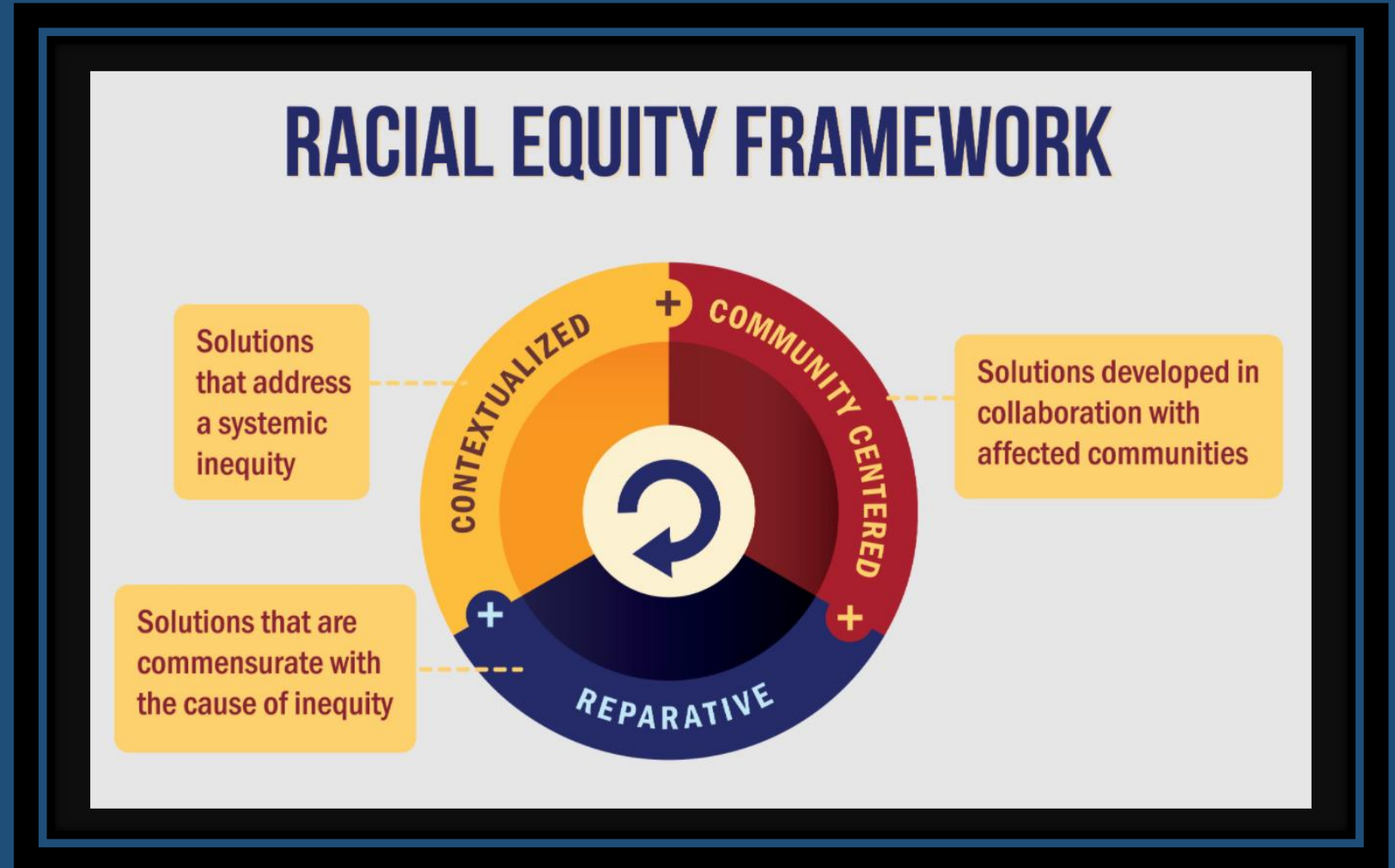
State office capacity building: Manager, Family & Community Engagement (TBD), & Grants & Community Relationships (TBD).

Working with communications firm to develop a web presence, concise and accurate messaging, clear and transparent multi-medium materials.



## Centering Racial Equity

*“We will endorse a system that ensures equitable outcomes for children, with intentional focus on race, ethnicity, culture, home language, income, children’s individual needs, and geography.”*





## Planning Model to support inclusive participation & communication



# Next Steps

- **Early 2022 Statewide “Virtual Launch Week” to introduce this work to the broader state immediately followed by working with the community to identify staff & council members**
- **Post “Virtual Launch Week”, we will begin hiring Council Staff**
  - **Council Director; Family & Community Engagement; Admin/Data**
- **Council will form based on staffing, community interest & capacity**
- **Goal is to have a Council presence through the state (39 councils) by end of 2022**
- **December 2022, present planning documents and recommendations to the Governors office (along with the Funding and Governance findings)**





## How you can help?



**Share the news of this work**



**Help us to identify council  
members & staff**



**Attend the Launch Week  
Event, First week of February**

# Public Comments & Announcements

# Closing Comments & Adjourn



**Thank you!**